

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
defining a severity level for a first controller, the first controller processing messages based on the defined effective severity level;
defining a minimum severity level and a maximum severity level with a second controller, the second controller being a child controller to the first controller in a controller hierarchy so as to receive said severity level as a parameter from said first controller; and
setting the severity level of the second controller equal to the severity level of the first controller if the severity level of the first controller is between the minimum severity level and the maximum severity level, said first and second controllers each being:
an instance of a tracing controller; or,
an instance of a logging controller.
2. (Original) The method as in claim 1 further comprising:
setting the severity level of the second controller equal to the minimum severity level if the severity level of the first controller is relatively lower than the defined minimum severity level.
3. (Original) The method as in claim 2 further comprising:

setting the severity level of the second controller equal to the maximum severity level if the severity level of the first controller is relatively higher than the defined maximum severity level.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein said first and second controllers are tracing controllers, further comprising:

receiving a trace message directed at the second controller;
comparing a severity value associated with the trace message with the severity level of the second controller; and
processing the trace message if the severity value associated with the trace message is greater than or equal to the severity level of the second controller.

5. (Original) The method as in claim 4 wherein processing comprises formatting information contained in the trace message and forwarding the formatted information to a specified output destination.

6. (Original) The method as in claim 4 wherein the trace message is emitted in response to the execution of a specified area of program code within an application.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein said first and second controllers are logging controllers, further comprising:

receiving a log message directed at the second controller;
comparing a severity value associated with the log message with the severity level of the second controller; and
processing the log message if the severity value associated with the trace message is greater than or equal to the severity level of the second controller.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein said first and second controllers are logging controllers, and wherein processing comprises formatting information contained in [[the]] a log message and forwarding the formatted information to a specified output destination.

9. (Original) The method as in claim 7 wherein the second controller is associated with a particular category and wherein the log message is from an application and/or network component associated with the category.

10. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

defining an severity level for a first controller, the first controller processing messages based on the defined severity level;

defining a minimum severity level and a maximum severity level with a second controller, the second controller being a child controller to the first controller in a defined controller hierarchy so as to receive said severity level as a parameter from said first controller; and

setting the severity of the second controller equal to the minimum severity level if the severity level of the first controller is relatively lower than the defined minimum severity level and setting the severity of the second controller equal to the maximum severity level if the severity level of the first controller is relatively higher than the defined maximum severity level, said first and second controllers each being:

an instance of a tracing controller; or,

an instance of a logging controller.

11. (Original) The method as in claim 10 further comprising:
setting the severity of the second controller equal to the severity of the first controller if the severity level of the first controller is between the minimum severity level and the maximum severity level.

12. (Original) The method as in claim 11 further comprising:
setting the severity of the second controller equal to the maximum severity level if the severity level of the first controller is relatively higher than the defined maximum severity level.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 10, wherein said first and second controllers are tracing controllers, further comprising:
receiving a trace message directed at the second controller;
comparing a severity value associated with the trace message with the severity of the second controller; and
processing the trace message if the severity associated with the trace message is greater than or equal to the severity of the second controller.

14. (Original) The method as in claim 13 wherein processing comprises formatting information contained in the trace message and forwarding the formatted information to a specified output destination.

15. (Original) The method as in claim 13 wherein the trace message is emitted in response to the execution of a specified area of program code within an application.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 10, wherein said first and second controllers are logging controllers, further comprising:

receiving a log message directed at the second controller;
comparing a severity value associated with the log message with the severity of
the second controller; and
processing the log message if the severity associated with the trace message is
greater than or equal to the severity of the second controller.

17. (Original) The method as in claim 10 wherein processing comprises
formatting information contained in [[the]] a log message and forwarding the formatted
information to a specified output destination.

18. (Original) The method as in claim 16 wherein the second controller is
associated with a particular category and wherein the log message is from an application
and/or network component associated with the category.

19. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a first controller to process messages based on [[the]] a defined severity level; and
a second controller being a child controller to the first controller in a defined
controller hierarchy so as to receive said severity level as a parameter from said first
controller; and
severity generation logic to set the severity of the second controller equal to the
severity of the first controller if the severity level of the first controller is between [[the]]
a minimum severity level and [[the]] a maximum severity level, said first and second
controllers each being:

an instance of a tracing controller; or,
an instance of a logging controller.

20. (Original) The system as in claim 19 wherein the severity generation logic sets the severity of the second controller equal to the minimum severity level if the severity level of the first controller is relatively lower than the defined minimum severity level.

21. (Original) The system as in claim 20 wherein the severity generation logic sets the severity of the second controller equal to the maximum severity level if the severity level of the first controller is relatively higher than the defined maximum severity level.

22. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 19, wherein said first and second controllers are tracing controllers, further comprising:

severity comparison logic to compare a severity value associated with a trace message directed at the second controller with the severity of the second controller, the second controller to process the trace message only if the severity associated with the trace message is greater than or equal to the severity of the second controller.

23. (Original) The system as in claim 22 further comprising:
a formatting module to format information contained in the trace message prior to forwarding the formatted information to a specified output destination.

24. (Original) The system as in claim 22 wherein the trace message is emitted in response to the execution of a specified area of program code within an application.

25. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 19, wherein said first and second controllers are logging controllers, further comprising:

severity comparison logic to compare a severity value associated with a log message directed at the second controller with the severity of the second controller, the second controller to process the log message only if the severity associated with the log message is greater than or equal to the severity of the second controller.

26. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 19, wherein said first and second controllers are tracing controllers, further comprising:

a formatting module to format information contained in [[the]] a trace message prior to forwarding the formatted information to a specified output destination.

27. (Original) The system as in claim 26 wherein the second controller is associated with a particular category and wherein [[the]] a log message is from an application and/or network component associated with the category.

28. (currently amended) An article of manufacture having program code stored thereon which, when executed by a machine cause the machine to perform the operations of:

defining a severity level for a first controller, the first controller processing messages based on the defined effective severity level;

defining a minimum severity level and a maximum severity level with a second controller, the second controller being a child controller to the first controller in a controller hierarchy so as to receive said severity level as a parameter from said first controller; and

setting the severity level of the second controller equal to the severity level of the first controller if the severity level of the first controller is between the minimum severity level and the maximum severity level, said first and second controllers each being:

an instance of a tracing controller; or,

an instance of a logging controller.

29. (Original) The article of manufacture as in claim 28 comprising additional instructions to cause the machine to perform the operations of:

setting the severity level of the second controller equal to the minimum severity level if the severity level of the first controller is relatively lower than the defined minimum severity level.

30. (Original) The method as in claim 29 comprising additional instructions to cause the machine to perform the operations of:

setting the severity level of the second controller equal to the maximum severity level if the severity level of the first controller is relatively higher than the defined maximum severity level.